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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7883.0080-12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mark KNUDSON et al.

Application No.: 10/682,067

Filed: October 9, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PERFORMING CORONARY
ARTERY BYPASS SURGERY

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) Group Art Unit: 3738
)
) Examiner: ISABELLA, DAVID J
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) Confirmation No.: 9479
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the foreign patent documents and non-patent literature listed on pages 7 and 10-13 of the Form PTO/SB/08 are attached. The foreign patent documents and non-patent literature documents listed on pages 2-6 are of record in prior Application No. 09/326,819, filed June 7, 1999, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120, and accordingly copies are not enclosed. Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

Regarding non-English language documents SU 1754128 A1 and RU 2026640 C1, English language abstracts were provided in prior Application No. 09/326,819, filed June 7, 1999.

Regarding non-English language documents WO 96/32972 A1 and WO 96/35469 A1, Applicants provide herewith English language abstracts.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 26, 2006

By: 

Michael W. Kim
Reg. No. 51,880

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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First Named Inventor

Mark KNUDSON

Art Unit

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Examiner Name

ISABELLA, DAVID J

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| | | | | First Named Inventor | Mark KNUDSON |
| | | | | Art Unit | 3738 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | ISABELLA, DAVID J |
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